

ABSTRACT

A system and method in accordance with the invention reliably and non-intrusively identifies various conditions of a network. In particular, an embodiment of the invention can identify an operating system, including version and patch level, and a service, including version and patch level, of a remote host on the network. Using this information, an embodiment of the invention can then reliably identify a vulnerability condition of the network. In some embodiments, the operating system and service information can be used to identify a trojan application, unlicensed software use, security policy violations, or even infer vulnerabilities that are yet unknown.

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